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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Chechen terrorist: Mashadov and Basayev ordered school raid - Hurriyet
Verheugen: Turkey has passed critical threshold - Milliyet
Verheugen to visit evacuated village in Diyarbakir - Milliyet 9/6
Diyarbakir welcomes Verheugen in Kurdish - Hurriyet 9/6
FM Gul: EU reforms will continue - Turkiye
Pope cancels November Istanbul visit - Hurriyet 9/6
Tel Afer burning - Sabah 9/6
'Dovish' Powell won't leave post - Sabah
Iraqi intellectuals protest coalition forces' operations - Sabah
Clinton undergoes heart surgery - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Russia mourns Beslan victims - Radikal
World blames Putin - Yeni Safak
Russian press blames Putin for Beslan violence - Cumhuriyet
Heart-shattering farewell to Beslan children - Cumhuriyet 9/6
Bush leads by 11 points, runs to victory - Zaman
Newsweek: Powell to keep post in new administration - Radikal
20,000 Turkomen flee Tel Afer - Cumhuriyet 9/6
Iraq: Al-Duri not yet captured - Radikal
Armenia to send 50 troops to Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Israel determined to 'exile' Arafat - Cumhuriyet
Palestine's Kurei cancels Turkey visit - Cumhuriyet 9/6
Israeli rightists to form militia force - Cumhuriyet
Pakistan, India re-start Kashmir peace talks - Zaman 9/6

BRIEFING

EU enlargement chief in Turkey: The moment of truth is approaching for Turkey's bid to join the European Union, EU enlargement chief Guenter Verheugen said during his visit to Ankara on Monday. 'We agree that now the moment of truth is coming,' he said. 'Nothing must postpone the decision that is foreseen for December,' Verheugen told reporters after meeting FM Abdullah Gul. However, Verheugen underlined that there are still some hitches, especially in the implementation of reforms. He nonetheless praised Ankara's efforts to clean up its poor human rights record, a key demand of the EU. Asked about allegations of torture in Turkey, Verheugen said that, compared with the past, it is 'very difficult' to say that a systematic practice of torture exists in Turkey today. FM Gul said that Turkey would continue to carry out democratic reforms regardless of the EU decision in December. Verheugen also met PM Tayyip Erdogan before traveling to the southeastern city of Diyarbakir to call on the governor and mayor there. 'The EU attaches particular importance to Diyarbakir and this region,' Verheugen stressed, adding that 'I would not have been allowed to visit Diyarbakir five years ago.' 'Turkey's reform process has enabled me to come here,' he added. 'Violence is not the solution,' Verheugen said. 'I strongly believe that the best way to guarantee the political, social, and cultural rights of Kurdish citizens is through European integration,' he concluded. Diyarbakir's Kurdish mayor, Osman Baydemir, said that despite shortcomings in the implementation of EU reforms, Turkey deserved to be granted a date for entry talks. Baydemir argued that a positive decision in December would speed up the reforms process in Turkey. The EU enlargement chief later met with former DEP parliamentarian Leyla Zana. Verheugen will travel to the western city of Izmir and later to Istanbul for meetings with businessmen and civic groups before wrapping up his visit on Thursday.
FM Gul on Tel Afer incidents: FM Gul rejected press reports

about clashes between Turkomen and US coalition forces in Tel Afer in northern Iraq, which allegedly caused 20,000 Turkomen to flee to surrounding villages. Gul said the US operation in Tel Afer was launched against insurgents who had come to the area from Fallujah. Gul noted that Turkish intelligence and the Turkish General Staff share this view of the Tel Afer clashes.

Iraqi Kurdish leaders due in Turkey: Ankara expects Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) official Necirvan Barzani to arrive in Ankara on Tuesday, and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani on Wednesday. The Kurdish leaders will discuss security and political issues in northern Iraq with officials at the Foreign Ministry. Ankara will warn the Kurdish leaders against efforts to change the demography of northern Iraq in favor of the Kurds.

PKK Attack Leaves 2 Dead in Diyarbakir: Radio and television reports this morning confirm that one Turkish soldier and a security guard were killed in a raid by PKK militants in Diyarbakir overnight. Turkish security forces are conducting a large-scale operation in the area to capture the perpetrators. The attack comes during EU Commission member Gunther Verheugen is in Diyarbakir for talks on Turkey's EU reform process.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Terrorism/Chechnya

"How content you are as a Muslim?"
Cuneyt Ulsever observed in the mass appeal Hurriyet (9/4):
"Let's look at the recent performance of Muslims worldwide: Children were treated as enemies in North Ossetia; terrorists crashed two planes in Russia and killed nearly 100 passengers; three Turkish Muslims in Iraq were murdered for nothing but trying to earn a living; another Turkish Muslim businessman has been kidnapped; three journalists from France, which stood against the American occupation, were kidnapped; ongoing bombings in Iraq continue to kill more Iraqis than American soldiers; another sabotage against the Kirkuk-Ceyhan oil pipeline has been reported; Hamas killed innocent people in Israel despite its claim that Israel is the one killing innocents. Even this recent compilation shows that regardless of how right their cause may be, Muslims have been producing nothing beyond treachery and death. 99.9 percent of Muslims worldwide have nothing to do with this, of course, but by now it no longer matters. The word Muslim is being identified with treason, not even with terrorism. A fly is almost invisible, but is always enough to spoil the soup. Muslims should never forget this fact."

"Reaping what you sow"
Haluk Ulman argued in the economic-politic Dunya (9/7):
"This article is absolutely not intended to defend terrorism in any way. I want to curse the recent terrorist events, but also to analyze the concept of 'Islamic terror.' The fanatics in the Western world, namely Jewish-Christian fanatics, put the whole blame on Islam. They strongly believe that Islam as a religion is a source for terrorism. The Islamic world, in turn, is busy finding arguments to acquit itself. Identifying Islam with terrorism is a big mistake and an injustice toward Muslims. History tells us that terrorist attacks have also been carried out by non-Muslims. Thus, terrorism does not have a religion. On the other hand, it is true to say that most of the perpetrators of terrorist events in recent decades have come from the Arab-Islamic world. The Islamic world should undergo some self-criticism in this regard. At the same time, the western world also should examine its policies toward the Islamic world. These terrorists are the 'side-effects' of the demise of the Ottoman Empire caused by the British, French and, finally, the Americans in order to protect their geopolitical and economic interests in the Arab-Islamic world. They are reaping the results of what they have sown."

EDELMAN